

Interview with William E. Walker, 21 October 1986.

Allen: This is Tuesday, the 21st of October, 1986 and I'm talking with Dr. William Walker, middle initial E.

Walker: William Edward Walker.

Allen: Now when did you first come to the university, Bill?

Walker: In 1964, September. I think I was the first person that Miles hired, and I was in the hospital, and so I had been offered a job at Yale, and then I was called on a Saturday night (?) I was approved by everyone, but they were going to do it on a part time basis, and the salary was unbelievably low so I wouldn't do it and so then Miles approached Littlefield that same day and Littlefield approved adding me as an instructor.

Allen: Do you recall the salary?

Walker: It was very low, yes, it was for \$5,000.

Allen: That was more than some of us were making who had already been here for years.

Walker: Well, the part time would have been I think \$1600 so I took it. The job at the library at Yale paid more. (?) and I'm starting over in my career, and so I taught that year and you know the graduate program was approved that year, and I had the distinct feeling that while it was being approved, that Lee was going to need help, and I tried to put in the back of my mind my administrative experience, because I did not want to go back into administration. But I had been a dean at a women's college and I had been acting dean in a graduate school at Vanderbilt, and I had been a chairman, and so I, at the end of that year, sure enough he called me over and asked me if I would become the assistant dean, and it was a title that, I was not assistant dean of Graduate Studies because there was no such title then, but I was going to be I think Graduate Registrar and Assistant Dean, and I told me I really didn't want to, but he sort of felt I owed him a debt. He said I shouldn't discuss it with anyone except, he did say I could discuss it with Milton Milhauser and Milton said I didn't have any choice, because Miles had hired me in the hospital and that I should do it, and I asked permission of the English Department finally, and they said yes, so I became Assistant Dean at no increase in salary. Littlefield said if I needed more money, I could teach in the summer school, so that summer I taught summer school, and we set up that room in Dana Hall which was a classroom then and it was hot, no air conditioning, and I had a part time secretary, and most of the chairman were away that summer and the statement from Littlefield was that all of the graduate courses had to have proper enrollment or they would be canceled, and so Lee and I really worked real hard.

Allen: I think the number was fifteen for minimum.

Walker: Twelve or fifteen. So we had, I addressed postal cards out, we got mailing lists, we met with people, we had a forum and we met over in the Jacobson Hall, and really worked hard and all of the courses ran, everyone of them.

Allen: Did you get any help from the Education graduate students, enrolling these courses?

Walker: We had some, yes, as a matter of fact Erickson insisted that most of our students were Education students, but we had the applications to our program that had not yet been accredited. And he was wrong and we had head to head count, and he kept insisting that most of our students were their students, but that wasn't the case, as a matter of fact, but we would have not been able to fill all those courses, but they had not recommended, they recommended that Lee just start graduate work in two or three fields. And they told him certainly that Physics would never run, but Bill Garner was very shrewd, and he put in a course that did not require many prerequisites and I think Zandy taught it and they we suppose to (?), but had a large enrollment, so all of them went, and it was a surprise to everybody. And so Lee was right in doing that, I think, as it turned out, but I don't think the chairman themselves thought-

Allen: I was very apprehensive about a graduate program because, one I didn't think we were ready and I didn't think we had the library to support one in History.

Walker: The library was a problem and of course when we came up for accreditation, when people came to visit, I was thinking of this the other day. Lee assigned me to go with the man in charge of the group to the library. I was embarrassed because I knew that was our weakest point, and when we went over, Mr. Ice was a very kind person, but he showed him the Special Collection that he had, and it wasn't really much of a special collection, some beautiful bound books, and the man look around and he said, "Well, that's enough". He understood what the situation was and they did in their, when they gave us accreditation they did say the library needed work.

Allen: That will continue for a long, long time as being one of our weak spots and it will also result, in part, in this building which helped to produce some of our financial problems in later years. There are other factors involved in that.

Now at one point there were two assistant deans, you and Difford.

Walker: Yes, as a matter of fact, Lee, after, I was not at that point really assistant dean for Graduate Studies. The graduate

committee was chaired by Milhauser, and there some resentment from people that I was the assistant dean. As a matter of fact, I think that Fran Dolan ever got over it. He didn't say he wanted to be a dean, assistant dean, but I think he did want it, but Lee didn't ask him and so I wasn't, Milhauser really had more to say in graduate meetings than, he chaired that committee, and I felt that Lee somehow didn't have the confidence in me because, I don't know, I'm just new at the university, and so he designated Fran Dolan as Senior Chairman, as sort of a title. And at Christmas of that year, in December of that year after the graduate program was under way, then Lee called me in and he said that he was going to add another Assistant Dean, and which would I rather be, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies or Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, and I told him Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies and he was puzzled but later he told me, I understand what you mean because Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies you're involved in everything, but as Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies you see the students, you get them enrolled and that's it. So he then advertised for someone and the one person, I guess, that was most suggested was Difford. Difford had been in a program learning to be an Administrator, and so he came to campus. He pretty much pushed his application, and he came to campus and Lee had me interview him, and there was no one to compare him with, you know, so he was hired. Then we had two Assistant Deans in the same office.

Allen: I asked Lee the question, knowing that Ropp had had no assistants, and how was he able to suddenly get two assistant deans. I've forgotten the answer he gave, but he did complain about, in his annual reports, about the fact that the dean was involved in day to day monkey work of the administration and no time to think and plan. So that was all delegated to you.

Walker: I handled almost everything that related to students and Lee often referred to, if any student was in trouble with something, he said, "well they're your students", and when the faculty did something that was askew, I was really thankful to Lee and so we pretty much operated on that basis, though I was represented him at the Senate, that's how I got involved with the Senate, because he, one of the ways I think he got two assistant deans was because the graduate program went, but also education had Erickson and it had Kranyik. Kranyik was named at the same time I was named, and they also had Erickson and so, and the College of Arts and Sciences really gave more, you know. We had to handle the Music Department, the Art Department, and other colleges, and then we had to, well, Education also was the secondary reason. He worked pretty closely with Education, I think the relationships, it improved because I think it had been pretty disastrous with Ropp.

Allen: Why did Ropp and See not get along?, Well not See but Trippensee in Education?

Walker: I didn't know Trippensee. He had gone when I came.

Allen: What was your knowledge and background of that problem?

Walker: I don't know what started it, it seemed to me, when I heard, that both of them were just absolutely non-resilient and Ropp didn't like Education and Trippensee had some sort of feeling against Liberal Arts, I don't know. Erickson felt that way too (?).

Allen: And then See came in the same time as Lee.

Walker: Yes, See came in the same time.

Allen: How did they get along?

Walker: They got along alright, but I distrusted See and Lee didn't, and I told him I distrusted See. He didn't distrust him but he did eventually, just before he left to go to Alfred. He did tell me that I had been right, but I told him that I knew, cause I had heard a lot of things that he didn't hear, and I heard them from people like Ray Vlader who was always full of all kinds of information, and usually right. He knew, and so he said that See was stabbing Lee in the back, that's the term he used, and Lee admitted to me that I was right.

Allen: Now as Assistant Dean for Undergraduate work, what were your duties?

Walker: Well, you know, Lee, when he came, was a little appalled because of the lack of records. Departments did not know, they didn't have major status forms. He was the one who instituted major status forms, and that became pretty much a campus wide thing, and he was the first administrator that I worked for that I felt was brighter than I was. All the rest of them, I didn't think so, but he detailed everything. I had to implement, but and I had to see the major status forms were printed, and everything but he designed it, and he outlined step by step, they were setting that system up and setting up files, to accompany, and trying to get the students to fill those out, and then we had to keep records against the registrar, because his, a lot of those people, he'd counted in some other major, and so since had changed the major forms but they never did anything about them. They didn't change them on the records.

But that was the first big thing we had to do, and then after that when graduation came up, I had to check the reports that came in because I felt some chairmen weren't like Roucek. He went in and he bolloxed the material that we got from (?) which is always wrong. It's always wrong, and so Roucek sat down, well this one hasn't met requirements, this one hasn't. After the meeting was

over we found out in ten days that he was wrong and the figures were wrong and so Lee said, I want you to check after him, and from then on, I had to check all of them, and then the students came in with problems, off campus, admissions, and then the probation students. I started seeing probation students. We were at that time, Student Personnel, you remember was extreme power, and so they would simply separate students at the end of a semester, and we had no say so at all. And Olive Wright was acting for Arts and Sciences and there was never any consultation. They would cut them, that's it. And I didn't like that, and I told Lee that the college should be involved in this, and I do feel that eventually we did break that stranglehold that Student Personnel had on the colleges. And as you recall we had that debate.

Allen: Yes, I was just going to ask you about that.

Walker: Al Wolff and I submitted a lot of proposals about Student Personnel, and so I was asked to challenge, really, it was done by an editor of the Scribe. He's the one who started agitating, and I had to get somebody to help me, so Fenner and I took on all the Student Personnel through the Senate. I think that they declared us wrong by the Scribe because they (?) but the changes were made, I think the handwriting was on the wall. They felt that sessions for make up tests and faculty had to be supplied by the colleges, and they had holds on so many parts of the colleges that they could draw on our faculty and man power of our faculty because (?), and I started seeing the students on probation trying to find out what to do about help, so then our college became astute in this sort of thing and I also in the Senate became involved with the regulation, and as you recall when they had the Ethics and Discipline Committee, I always attended when they were students from Arts and Sciences.

Allen: I was on that committee, too. Among other things. Incidentally, Lee perhaps has told you this, but he told me that out at the ACE meetings they met some alumni and one alumnus said that you had changed his life.

Walker: Peter Bernstein

Allen: Is that who it was?

Walker: Ginny told me. I remember Peter Bernstein by name. I don't remember the circumstances of the occasion.

Allen: This happens so often. You do something for someone and they remember it and you forget it.

Walker: Yes, I know but I saw so many students. We had a lot of students and during that period, they started smoking marijuana. I was on the Board of the Lid. remember The Lid? And we spon-

sored a series of discussions once a week for about seven or eight weeks, and we had drug addicts come and he, well he appeared without identity, and we had policemen who came, and we had council, a psychiatrist, psychologist and we took it from almost every point of view, and we had some good attendance but not complete because some of the students said that they felt that we were going to have this and afterwards we were going to engage in a big bust and get them all. (?) because we (?)

Allen: It's been said that you were the school's authority on rules and regulations.

Walker: If I was, it was because Lee was so insistent on details. It was not an unusual thing for me to start working at 8:30 in the morning and leave here at 10 or 10:30.

Allen: Tell me about it.

Walker: You know. This is interesting that the guy in History (?) when Lee's assistant (?)

Allen: The Presidential Fellow, Stan Brush?

Walker: After he worked for him, he knew what I was talking about, that it was a very hard job. Lee had asked me the first time (?) and I in this area, I had moved to Stratford and after working for so long, because the hours, (?) because it's one of those things that you have so much work (?) He pretty much involved us in a lot of things cause I went to a meeting of the chairman, I was in those meetings, I represented him at the Senate, and that meant meeting with him to find out what his views were. I had to start keeping up with all those things. And after a while I knew more about rules than he did.

Allen: Tell us about the Senate.

Walker: Lee didn't have very much respect for the Senate, but that's because he didn't learn how to work within the established procedures, and as you know, I did, and you did too. And so he went for a couple of big issues, and I think one of them was the Ethics and Discipline Committee (?) but most of the time he would simply review with me what was coming up and tell me what his views were, and I would bound to express his views, but I was not bound to vote that way, but if I voted differently than what he said, then I had to say what his position was.

Allen: He did learn something about the Senate, however, under the general liberal education program. Do you remember that?

Walker: Yes, that was the big thing. He and See worked together on that.

Allen: And I remember a luncheon meeting with Lauren McMackin who headed up the program after MacKenzie left.

Walker: I'd forgotten about McMackin.

Allen: And then we reached a compromise, and we ended up with a caucus of Arts and Science senators and then we met with the Education senators and we jammed it through the Senate.

Walker: I'd forgotten about that, that's true. That was the only way we could have gotten that done too.

Allen: That produced our basic core. What did you think about that core?

Walker: I liked that core and I eventually voted to abolish it for this reason. That they were presenting a change and one of the changes, for example, involved one semester of English, and it was the abolition of Western Civilization, and every time we tried to amend the proposal they had, we could not get anywhere and Hugo James is in the same Senate, and at one meeting we couldn't amend a single thing, and also it included a provision that a college could not set up its own requirements that were contrary, or that would intensify those that were set up. And so we were really stymied after that meeting, and we were trying to decide what we could do, and we finally decided that the best thing to do was to simply put in a motion to abolish the requirement, and so we could keep our college requirement and so that is what we did.

And one reason that they were making such headway was that Ekeblad didn't think there should be any requirement in overall university requirements and Manning supported him. Manning thought that too. We had a hard road to hoe because the people who were in Engineering, this thing with Peter Costello and that group in Business. They were the ones in charge of that curriculum committee and they had the students. They had, I've forgotten the student, he was president of the Student Council at that time, and he, especially, was intense about the intent on getting some of the changes made, because he had resented having to fulfill some of those requirements. I liked that core and I proposed later when it (?) was abolished by the Arts and Sciences. I opposed abolishing that. Your own man Juliusberger was the one who was for it. He pushed it and I reminded him of that many times, since that time, because I took Western Civilization and it simply worked in very well with other courses that I was taking. I took English Literature and there was wonderful to find different points of view on the same subject and so I felt it was a very valuable program.

Allen: For some people it's a hard course to teach. It wasn't for me, well it was hard, but I had many gimmicks that helped a

lot and I approached it more from a eclectic point of view than some of the others.

Walker: Is it true that one day when you shot the gun and killed the archduke that somebody in the audience had a gun and shot back?

Allen: That was Harry Kendall. He came to listen. There were a number of stories. An interesting thing about that is that lecture has become a very, very famous lecture, and people remember it but they will then follow it up with, "You know, I have been thinking, and I have been reading," and they have become an expert on some phase of history. Not necessarily the world war, but some other thing, which is an indication to me that we fulfilled our goal. We did what the course was designed to do, now of course, not only is it not being taught here, it is not being taught in high school, and we are developing a generation of historical illiterates.

Walker: Well, you know, abolishing that was under consideration when Lee was here. Remember that he used to meet with the council of alumna, the Alumni Council, and they met once with the chairmen, and they discussed Western Civilization. I remember Tom Gerety was a Superior Court Judge. It seems to me he thought it should be kept, he liked it, but that was, Lee was concerned about this too. I think he was in favor of keeping it, but he, sometimes, was, he played his cards close to his vest, if he wanted to get a lot of discussion going. But he was, especially, conscientious person, I worked early and he did too, quite often.

Allen: And then when he got home.

Walker: Yes, and, you know, he started, he was the first one to have a student advisory committee, and after he got it under way, I often met with them. But he came in at various times, and he came in at the end to get a gift, they gave him a present, and they liked him very much. And all those different meetings, and he was always bringing speakers to campus. And Walter Love was funny, he said, well Lee worked him hard too, because they had that thing, the British Studies. But, Lee is something of a nagger. And he told me so, because if Lee asks you to do a report, and if it is supposed to be due the 15th of the month, on about the 10th I could find a little note from him saying, "I was wondering if I could give you any help about the report", and doing those things used to burn Walter Love, oh, he was burned. But Walter was one person who needed those kinds of things. He sometimes would procrastinate.

Allen: Walter was a good teacher. We did a debate in history on the Renaissance, oh the Reformation, which we taped, and we had prepared the debate ahead of time, and it came off rather well.



Walker: I saw it once, when one of those was done, and it was very interesting. I enjoyed it.

Allen: Well, out of that grew our team teaching experiment with Harry Kendall and I. We were quite successful on it, but it broke up a few friendships in the history department. They didn't have the self confidence to replicate our act. Harry and I could lambaste each other in class, and then walk out the best of friends, because we were confident with each other.

Coming back to the Senate, Bill, you were going to say something?

Walker: I was eventually elected in my own right, to the Senate, and I was, I enjoyed it, I liked the Senate, and I liked very much the interchange with President Littlefield, because he was a pleasure to deal with, because he had such a wry sense of humor. But he also took criticism pretty well. And I remember that he had, when we were talking about building this library, he had proposed that there be a doughnut shaped building that would be on top of the old library, and when we were getting around to reconsidering, we were thinking about faculty participation in the library, and it was sort of a crucial, and I said, "Well, I don't know who it was that suggested that ridiculous idea of the doughnut". He said, "Bill, that was my idea." I said, "I was just teasing you". But we did, in that Senate Meeting, move to have a building like this built, not as many floors. And I think that was very important decision, I think the Library was deserving and very important.

Allen: The Senate, as you know I was one of the originators of the Senate, and it did for a number of years, but it never ultimately fulfilled my expectation. I think it fell into disrepute in later years. You are nodding yes. To what do you attribute this?

Walker: I think that the decline started with Manning. I think he was absent a lot, and then I think our choosing of some one to preside, I think that weakened it. I think it was better to have the President presiding. Therefore I was not in favor of the other motion, and Littlefield was pretty much involved, I felt that he was, really a pro-Senate man. And he respected, I remember once he was trying to set up a separate college like what is now Metropolitan College, but he was, it was primarily Alfred Wolff' plan.

Allen: It was called University College.

Walker: Yes. Kranyik and I both united in opposition to that. But Littlefield said, it was Lee I guess said, if it hadn't been for Bill Walker, we would have had a University College. I don't remember the details, but I was pointing out some things that did influence (?). if you had knowledge of things then, you could,

if you presented those to the people in the Senate, then you could win their vote, and so it took knowledge of things to be able to do that. But I felt that that.

Oh, I know another reason, because of the Collective Bargaining. That just about -

Allen: The whole character changed at that point, because we, everything was imbued with a collective bargaining aspect, and we no longer considered the educational issues.

Walker: And I felt a little insecure after that because I always felt that the Senate was the place you could bring things up, and you could get a final say so, and I voted against the collective bargaining unit and then after I became a faculty member, I withdrew from it. And when Daigle was elected president, he said we would do almost anything to get you to rejoin, and I said I wouldn't. But then the new contract, we had to either join or else - and I felt that the administration should never included that.

Allen: I agree. But there were reasons for it, but I agree with you on that.

Walker: The thing about the Senate was, you could have arguments but, and I remember one time that Hennessey, I think, he hated me just about as much as I disliked him, but he and I were at each others throat, and I said, well, (?) and Manning said, "Well I would like both of you to stop being personal".

Allen: I remember that, I was secretary then. As a matter of fact we had a little go around in the Senate when I recorded the number of times you had spoken.

Walker: It was, with the collective bargaining unit, I have felt that they always take a position for the collective bargaining unit, regardless of the merits of the case, so when they appeal for those 16 or 18 people who were given notices, that first of the year. And I asked in the meeting, why they had done this with out even consulting those people. And they told me that it was the best way to do it and none of my business, and I said, but you didn't even come to the group, you just did it, the executive committee of the group did it. That is when I left. And I wrote the president of the AAUP in Washington, and he wrote a rather nasty letter saying he didn't know about our constitution. And I sent him a copy. Obviously they had written too. I don't feel that they go by principle on those things.

Allen: Alright, you have talking about what it was like working for Lee, and we have shared some commonalities there, you mentioned that you didn't get along with Al Wolff very well.

Walker: At times. One thing about Lee, when he called me in that time and he asked me if I wanted to be Assistant Dean, he said, "now you have fulfilled any obligation you owe me, you don't have to do it, if you don't want to." He said, "I know you took this because you felt -" And I said, (?).

Al and I got along pretty well when Lee was here, I guess we really parted ways, maybe -

Allen: It was over the advising situation, wasn't it?

Walker: I guess it was.

Allen: Alright, let us look at some of the faculty. Roucek?

Walker: That was courageous thing for Lee to terminate him, give him a forced, final sabbatical. And he, people talk about Roucek a lot, but nobody would ever really stand up when it came time, hut he did. And I didn't know what was going on. I have great respect for Lee in that things that he thought were really personal between him and a faculty member, he kept that strictly confidential. I know that he, a teacher in the English Department was caught smoking marijuana with the students. I didn't even know until he had left campus, and the word was that he had gone back to graduate school. And Lee did that in such a way that, you know, it was just those who knew directly about it and I think that was the way he should have handled it.

He never told me about Roucek. he didn't go into all of the details about it. I respected him for that. He didn't burden me with it, he didn't put that responsibility on me at all. He was over kind to some faculty. We had, you remember that he had set up the Speech and Drama Department under Orville Larsen, and Orville just got away with a lot of things, and his final summer here, he registered students for summer school and then two days after summer school was under way, the students came to me, and said I registered for this course, and I couldn't make it the first day. On the second day there was nobody there. So I tried to find out what had happened. Orville Larsen had taken the week off. A five week summer school, and had taken the first week off because he was moving. And so he had told the class that he would be back. So I, Lee was away, and I was Acting Dean, so I called Littlefield and told him, and he said, "Well, what do you want to do?" I said, "Well, I think that when he comes back I would put him on notice and tell him that if he missed any more classes, he would be fired". He said "Do it". I did, I wrote him a letter. I didn't check on him, but when Lee came back, one day Orville went in and resigned, because he said he had missed a lot more classes. I guess he thought that I might know that. I didn't, I didn't check up on him, so he resigned.

And he had gotten to that particular phase in his career, he was

good, he did the Little Theater over, and he was good at that, the technical aspect, but running the whole department - Lee was very nice to him though, I thought, Orville would take people to lunch and to dinner and charge this to the department, and so he was living off the department budget. But Lee was very tolerant about it.

Allen: Let's talk for a minute about faculty. First of all, the faculty that were here when you came.

Walker: Alright, I will tell you an instance about Fred Strong. Lee had been living in Fred's house the first year, because they were away and I think Mayper was acting chairman that year, but when Fred came back, at the end of one semester, the students were taking a course that he was involved with, they got two grades, they got one from him and one from somebody else. And he averaged these grades, and when somebody got a 70, he gave the person a D. Well, we had then, a stated, a mathematical equivalent, for grades, and so the students protested. And he said he wasn't bound by this, and there were about 5 students involved, and so Lee looked into it and Lee found for some, and I said, "You were wrong, you are absolutely wrong", then what Strong did was to, I disagreed with Lee in private, but then these students met with Fred and Fred changed the grade after that. But then he put a motion before the Senate to abolish the mathematical equivalent, and I thought that never should have happened. I always felt that usually that when Littlefield was president that he would reverse it if necessary, but when Manning was here then the motion was made to leave the amount of the exams up to the instructor, and I voted against this and fought against this, and it passed. And I urged Manning to veto it, but he didn't. Ironically then, a couple of years ago, when our department was insisting on departmental exams, I wasn't going to do it because we didn't have to, according to that regulation. I used it. I read how much I was opposed to the passage of it, and I still think it was bad.

Allen: Milton Milhauser?

Walker: A fine person. He was one of the closest friends that I had when I first came here. We were close friends until Jim Light came. And we were still friends when Jim Light came, but when Lee left, then there was a lot of struggle for the job of the Dean, and so Light called, I was on the committee, and I had been nominated and Littlefield asked me, in front of all these people, "Would you like to be Dean?" And I said "No". He said "Why?" "Because I am afraid that I would not be able to keep my personal feelings under control in all my dealings." But then Light came to me and said (?) and ask him to make me dean. I said, I would consider it, I didn't think he was ready for the Dean. And I said, let me think about it.

End of Tape Side one.

Walker: Light and Milhauser were very close, and Milhauser tried to get me (?) and I said, "Look, who is going to do all the detail?" He said, "well you are". And I said, "you don't understand, I already have my hands full now, and Light doesn't understand much about that". I think later when he was Dean he had a heart attack down at Hunter College. But Milhauser and I were always good friends. He was fine.

And Dr. Goulding, I adored him. He was wonderful, but he, at the end of my first year, Lee gave me a considerable raise in pay, but he did not send the letter of appointment, mine and Milhauser's he held, and delivered, and it burned Goulding, because I know that Lee gave me more than Goulding recommended. But he was delightful, and he would hold every piece of information that came in and when we had a department meeting, he went through every one of these, and sometimes it took hours, we were drinking coffee, eating cookies he had brought. But it was more a social hour than any thing else, he would be sitting there, "What shall we do with this?" And he was a nice guy, but very set in his ways.

Allen: Used to be called Rudy Vallee by the students in the Junior College.

Walker: Oh, he was?

Allen: He looked so much like him in his younger days.

Walker: Charlie Jacobs was fine too.

Allen: Do you every have any of his poetry?

Walker: I have a volume that he published.

Allen: Do you have any of the "Little Willies"?

Walker: No I don't. In those departmental meetings, he used to start writing a little, what do you call those things?

Allen: Little Willies?

Walker: Oh, limericks. he would write a line and pass it around, and somebody would add a line, by the time it got through, it would really be a mess. But he would always start that.

Allen: I would like to borrow that book, if I may, because I loved Charlie, but I don't have any of his, I have one of his little poems, but I would like to pick a couple out to illustrate the pixie like sense of humor that he had.

Walker: I will look for it, I know I have it, I saw it not too long ago.

Allen: I would appreciate looking at that for a little bit. Who were the best teachers outside of your, you mentioned Milhauser as being an excellent teacher, in the Arts and Science College, who were the best teachers?

Walker: Let me see, In language, I think that the best was Will Garcia. He had a good reputation. The worst was Leavitt. The Ekmetjian was a through one, but not humane. Van der Kroef always, people always talk about him. And they talked about you and Harry Kendall a lot too. In physics, Bill Garner was an excellent teacher.

And strangely enough Dolan was a good Anatomy and Physiology teacher, but that was all he knew. Because he didn't have the degree. He had gone to an undertaking school. I had to go to New York to get that information.

You see I was fired from my job before Larson went out, and the people who pressured him to do that were, Light and Holloway, and so I had much accrued vacation time, and so I was paid, and then when Fletcher came in, he worked for months and then he finally called me over and said he wanted me to come back to this job. He was going to have Karl do the Assistant Dean for Graduate work. That would put Karl and I in the same office. So I said I would. I had been elected Secretary of the Senate and he said I had to give that up, but I could stay on as a Senate member, but I had to agree never to take a position opposite his. I said alright. So I went back into that job and he, every time we interviewed somebody who was a biologist, and Fran, who was on that Committee, wasn't there, and so after Fletcher came and talked with him, and said "That man doesn't know anything. At least he doesn't have a degree." So he sent me to NY, because Fran had put down on one of the Shine Sheets he had gone to Fordham. And then the next year he put down he went to Manhattan. So I had to go to both schools, and Fordham had a printed list and he hadn't gone there. And Manhattan they said he could have been a brother there and then his name would have been different. But the only ones who had access to those records was the President of Manhattan, and they said he was away but I could contact him. I did, and he was going to check and call at a certain time. We were having a faculty meeting in Dana Hall and the call came, I was called out of a faculty meeting to take this long distance call, and he told me that he had checked and there had been a Dolan but he would be 89 years old now, something like that. And within two hours of that, Fran went over to Littlefield's office and resigned. Somebody knew what that call was, the same way Garner used to watch the mail. But Fran had a reputation as being an excellent teacher.

And Garner had a reputation of being an excellent teacher, too. The tragedy about Garner, I think, is that he lied, but I think he could have been a great asset to any place. (?)

In Art History, Lord had a good reputation and Boux did too, he and I don't get along. He had a good reputation as a teacher. And Byard was pretty good. You remember Byard?

Allen: He was in the Art Department.

Walker: He was head of the art department.

Allen: He had a problem with credentials too, didn't he?

Walker: Yeah, he had listed Phi Beta Kappa and publications in magazines that didn't exist. And he, its ironic though, I, Mr. Boux was about to get fired because he hadn't finished his degree and he was going to seven years, and I told Byard, well there is such a thing as a Special Instructor. So they kept him on as a special instructor. Then later he and Sybil Wilson, Sybil Wilson and Jeanette Lam were good teachers too, they got down on Byard about something and they started looking up his record, and so, ironically, the man, I helped Byard save then helped get him out. I was sorry about that. He was a good teacher, but he falsified, he really didn't have to falsify that, he would have been alright without that. I don't know why.

Of course we had in Economics, Charlie Stokes, had a reputation of being a good economics teacher. Fenner had a reputation of being a tough teacher, and Sue Atkinson, she had a good reputation. In, oh, some one else who had a good reputation as a teacher was Charlie Evans, who was murdered, and he had a good debating program.

Allen: He was doing a great job with the Forensics program.

Walker: Yeah, and they brought, well the Oxford Debaters and I remember Lee entertained them at his house, and that was a good program. Bill Banks was a very reliable person, and not known as an outstanding teacher, but very fair. John Mellor had a reputation a good Chemistry teacher. Strong had his own textbook and was always correcting it. It was not in print yet. The students were impatient with him. And in, let's see, Roucek was, can't say anything about him. In Political Science -

In Biology, Somers had a good reputation. Hugo was regarded as too tough. I think he has mellowed. Did he call you, the other day?

Allen: Yes.

Walker: Could you think of any rule?

Allen: No.

Walker: I couldn't either.

Allen: He said he had spoken to you, because I had suggested you.

Walker: Let's see what other departments did we have? Well, people used to speak well of Sauerwein. And in our department, Swain was a good teacher, too. He was an excellent teacher of Milton. Used to go in wearing his robes when he taught the appropriate thing.

Allen: Then of course had Rassias for a while.

Walker: He was here my first year. Then at the end of that time he was - yeah, he was outstanding.

Allen: Well, Bill, if you had a chance to do your life all over again, would you come to UB and do what you did?

Walker: Yes, I think I would. I don't think I would stay in administration as long as I did. I stayed primarily because we didn't have the deanship settled, as you recall. And we they brought Mr., who was a disaster,

Allen: Karnis.

Walker: Karnis. Brought him in, and at the end of that first year, the chairmen wanted to sack him, and we met with Manning, and it was in the summer time, I believe, and I was not in favor, they wanted to make Karl Larson the Acting Dean again. And of course, I did have a thing, Karl had fired me, we got along beautifully, at Christmas he gave me a copy of The Prophet, and inside, he said, "To a person who can separate professional and personal lives".

Oh Math teachers. Fitzgerald was good. And Turner was a good one too. But I was opposed to removing Karnis at that particular time, because it was in the summer. So he stayed one more year. But he was given notice that he had to leave at the end of that year. But I then, after that, Fletcher came, let's see, no, it was Karnis then Fletcher. And I enjoyed working for Fletcher, he was very apprehensive, he had locks put on the files, big things, so nobody could get in. And he would call us on meetings on Sunday night, and he would be planning all these, he had San Francisco in mind, where there had been more rowdies, and I went, when we went to that Senate meeting where they closed the school down, I wanted to speak, but he wouldn't let me, because he said, this is very dangerous. I always regretted that I didn't, but I



had promised him that I wouldn't go against him in that thing.

He was pleasant to work with, and I regretted that he, well, actually, a move was made to get him to stay again, but Littlefield really didn't much want him, and so he sent Bigsbee and Bigsbee was very ambiguous, and so Fletcher never knew that Bigsbee was telling him he could stay if he wanted to stay. And Karnis was a disaster. And so after Karnis, then Al Schmidt came. And Schmidt and I had not gotten along too well, I don't know why, but I had resolved, when he became Dean, that I was going to retire from administration. And I think he had resolved that he was going to retire me too. I think we had mutual feelings. But after we had worked together a semester, we just got along beautifully, and I can't think of anyone who has given me greater support, to whom I had felt so much loyalty as I did then. I really enjoyed working with him and later had the opportunity to defend him against some people who were attacking him. like Juliusburger and Gerteiny. It happened sometimes in the faculty meetings, and I think he did a good job. And I nominated him for the Vice Presidency. But I was afraid he was going to leave it, as a matter of fact, I didn't know he had already decided, and I talked to him once, and said, "I wouldn't take a lot if I were you", and he said "Let me tell you, that is exactly what I feel".

So I wouldn't stay as long. I kept feeling, well, and when you look back on it, people really don't care, they aren't around to know that you did this, and I did it. I did it at some sacrifice, stay there. I did defend our faculty a lot against Education, they were always asking me, especially Al Erickson, and I defended them, and, but they never knew this. Although every time I ran for the Senate, they elected me and when they had those Committees for the Trustees Committees. I remember that those of us who were elected went into Littlefield's office, and he said "I am going to give choices according to the number of votes people got. Bill Walker you are first". And I was very pleased that I had gotten the most votes, and I stayed twice, as long as you could stay.

Allen: I did too.

Walker: And so I always felt that the Board was wrong in not changing that, putting a time period, because it gets to the point that everybody eventually gets to serve, I guess, not the best way. But I would not stay in it as long as I did before. But in those days, teaching was a pleasure here. Not so much fun anymore. In English. Because we don't have many majors, and we, lot of them are Creative Writing majors, those that we do have. And so, it's just not, you just don't have the intellectual inter relationships with students that you had before. The World Lit that I teach is the closest, and often those classes had been 36, too big a class, and it, so I have ended up now, my last teaching

year have not been nearly so fulfilling as they were when I was teaching. I taught the first two classes, and then finally Lee called and said, "Don't you think that you should drop one of these?" And he sent the memorandum and Mrs. Winburn was my secretary, and she wrote "Yes!". Because I was so busy.

Allen: When do you retire?

Walker: Well, I am supposed to get a sabbatical next year, and then get two years early retirement after that. And I requested that last year, second semester, and I assume then that I would come back this year, and they said, "well, why don't you combine this request for a sabbatical with your request for early retirement?" I said, "Well, because you have to come back". And they said, "you don't anymore, we can give you a terminal sabbatical, you don't have to come back." It states it in the contract but they aren't insisting on that. So I put that deal through because that is what Eigel and Nazzaro said. And it has been in Reilly's office, I went to see him earlier this semester, and said, you told Nazzaro last year that there would be no problem. I want to see something in writing. Well, I am 99% sure, but we have to wait a couple more weeks.

Allen: Well, this has been very useful and helpful, Bill, I appreciate very much your taking your time to reminisce -

Walker: Well, I didn't think I would remember as much as I did. You reminded me of some, but that general education thing that, that was a very significant thing too,

Allen: Well, you forget too, that I am back in this time for the last year and that helps.

Walker: One little anecdote about Lee that I never will forget, two boys had been arrested, I guess for, they had gotten drunk and they were commuters and they had been accused of desecrating a church sanctuary. Actually that had gone into the education building of a church, a Greek Orthodox, I think, and they had been drinking, and so they were kicked out, and Lee said "These two students are never coming back to UB". I said, "Lee, Never is a long time", "Never". But we set up a procedure for readmission, working with the Ethics and Discipline Committee, if they approved and if the Chairman of that Student's department approved, then he could come back. So Lee didn't ever have a say so. The students came back. One of them did. He was a good student, he just had gone astray. He came back after he was out for a year. And so Lee never knew until later, I said, "Well, that student is back but you didn't have to go back on your word."

He would say never sometimes, and he, one other thing, he was always, he trusted Jim Halsey to the nth, but Halsey was always

pulling little deals, you know, and one time, he, we had a student whose father was, had a good job, was wealthy, he was from Newtown, and the student was up for graduation but suddenly he, it showed up on his transcript, a semester of Physical Education from New Hampshire College. "How in the world did this happen?" Well, we found out that Halsey had given the boy an informal New Start, and this was an informal rescission of New Start, giving him that semester. And so, we stopped it and he had to take one more semester of English. And Halsey was very resentful, but Lee, one time he went up to Lee at a social function and said, "I have this girl that has been ill and she has missed some classes, she has a test coming up in Math and I, could you do something for her?" So Lee, talked with the teacher in Math and then he wrote a letter to the Student, and sent a copy to Halsey, saying I am sorry that you have been ill and I hope you will be recovered, in fact (?). Halsey got his copy of that letter and he went over and stopped the letter to the student, because the student had never been ill. And Lee called me in one day, and said I didn't know anything about that, but said, "From now on I want you to handle all student matters". And I said, "Have I done something Wrong?" He said, "No, that is alright" He wouldn't say anything, but he wouldn't talk with Halsey on the phone for two days, and he, he finally said, " You know, I might report you to the US Postal Service." He was, just felt so angry, that that had happened, because Halsey had buttered him up and he believed it.

Allen: You raise another issue. Lee was interested in the VP for Academic Affairs before he left for Alfred. Do you know anything about that?

Walker: He held out to the very end waiting for Littlefield to give it to him. It is my understanding that a couple members of the Board pressured Littlefield to do it, but he didn't do it.

Allen: But Henry did not want Lee in the job.

Walker: I think it was the See influence, and I think Littlefield felt that if he had to chose between See and Lee, he'd take See.

Allen: I have a wonderful interview with Harold See, incidentally.

Walker: Oh you do?

Allen: Well, again, Bill, thank you very, very much. This has been very useful for me and there will be, I will remember parts of this.

Walker: I remember a lot.

Allen: This is the end of the tape.